



San Antonio Police Department

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DATE: September 29, 2003

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NEWS RELEASE

Officer Shot and Vehicle Riddled with Bullets by Robbery Suspect

On September 29, 2003, at 1:51 AM San Antonio Police Officer John Wheeler, 10-year-veteran, responded to a robbery in progress call at 2811 S.W. Loop 410 at Hwy. 90.

As Officer Wheeler was driving up to the gas station, he immediately started to receive gunfire from the suspect involved in the robbery. The suspect was using a high-powered rifle and fired over 20 rounds striking both Officer Wheeler and his patrol car. Officer Wheeler was unable to return fire but struck the suspect's vehicle, which was in the south parking lot near the convenience store. Both Officer Wheeler's patrol car and the suspect's vehicle came to a stop as they struck the side of the building. Additional responding officers arrived and called for medical assistance for Officer Wheeler. The suspect was not located at the scene and is believed to have fled on foot.

Officer Wheeler was transported to Wilford Hall Hospital where he is listed in stable condition. There were three people inside the gas station at the time of the robbery. Neither was injured. The San Antonio Police Department's Shooting Team is handling the investigation. Any person with information relating to the identity or whereabouts of the suspect is urged to call SAPD Homicide Office at 207-7635.

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The suspect is described as a:

Suspect

Black male

5'9" – 5'10"

160 – 170 lbs.

Wearing dark blue hospital scrubs

White bandana over face

For Immediate Release